

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for specifying an electronic food menu, said
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 retrieving a plurality of food menu items from a data
4 storage medium;

5 comparing said plurality of food menu items with
6 previously stored food preferences for a particular
7 customer; and

10 selecting a food menu wherein said plurality of food
11 menu items that satisfy said food preferences for said
12 particular customer are designated, such that an
 electronic food menu is specified for a particular
 customer.

2. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
step of:

4 graphically displaying said selected food menu
5 according to a output preference for said particular
6 customer, such that the graphical representation of said
7 selected food menu is provided to accommodate a display
8 preference for said particular customer.

1 3. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 2, said step of graphically displaying
3 said selected food menu further comprising the step of:

4 graphically displaying only said plurality of food
5 menu items of said selected food menu that are designated.

1 4. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 2, said step of graphically displaying
3 said selected food menu further comprising the step of:

4 graphically displaying said selected food menu in
5 order from designated food menu items to non-designated
6 food menu items.

1 5. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 2, said step of graphically displaying
3 said selected food menu further comprising the step of:

4 graphically displaying said selected food menu,
5 wherein said plurality of food menu items that do not
6 satisfy said previously stored food preferences for said
7 particular customer are graphically distinguishable from
8 said plurality of food menu items that do satisfy said
9 food preferences for said particular customer.

1 6. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 2, said step of graphically displaying
3 said selected food menu further comprising the step of:

4 graphically displaying a tactile-detectable graphical
5 representation of said selected food menu, wherein said
6 output preference for said particular customer designates
7 a tactile-detectable graphical representation.

1 7. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 2, said step of graphically displaying
3 said selected food menu further comprising the step of:

4 graphically displaying a graphical representation of
5 said selected food menu utilizing a particular font size,
6 wherein said output preference for said particular
7 customer designates said particular font size.

1 8. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 2, said step of graphically displaying
3 said selected food menu further comprising the step of:

4 graphically displaying a graphical representation of
5 said selected food menu utilizing a particular language,
6 wherein said output preference for said particular
7 customer designates said particular language.

1 9. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 2, said step of graphically displaying
3 said selected food menu further comprising the step of:

4 graphically displaying a graphical representation of
5 said selected food menu wherein prices are displayed in a
6 particular currency, wherein said output preference for
7 said particular customer designates said particular
8 currency.

1 10. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 transmitting auditory output of said selected food
5 menu for said particular customer.

1 11. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 graphically printing said selected food menu for said
5 particular customer.

1 12. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 graphically displaying said selected food menu
5 according to a generic style sheet.

1 13. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said step of retrieving a plurality
3 of food menu items from a data storage medium, further
4 comprising the step of:

5 receiving said plurality of food menu items via a
6 wireless transmission medium.

1 14. ~~The method for specifying an electronic food menu~~
2 according to claim 13, ~~said step of retrieving a plurality~~
3 of food menu items from a ~~data storage medium~~, further
4 comprising the step of:

5 ~~receiving said plurality of food menu items via a~~
6 ~~radio frequency transmission medium~~.

1 15. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 13, said step of retrieving a plurality
3 of food menu items from a data storage medium, further
4 comprising the step of:

5 receiving said plurality of food menu items via an
6 infrared connection.

1 14. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said step of retrieving a plurality
3 of food menu items from a data storage medium, further
4 comprising the step of:

5 receiving said plurality of food menu items via a
6 network connection.

1 15. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said step of retrieving a plurality
3 of food menu items from a data storage medium, further
4 comprising the step of:

5 receiving said plurality of food menu items via a
6 wired connection.

1 16. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said step of retrieving a plurality
3 of food menu items from a data storage medium, further
4 comprising the step of:

5 receiving said plurality of food menu items in a data
6 transmission protocol.

1 17. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 16, said step of receiving said
3 plurality of food menu items in a data transmission
4 protocol, further comprising the step of:

5 transmitting said food menu items in an extensible
6 mark-up language protocol.

1 18. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said step of retrieving a plurality
3 of food menu items from a data storage medium, further
4 comprising the step of:

5 accessing a plurality of food menu items from a
6 database, wherein each of said plurality of food menu
7 items comprises a plurality of food and health
8 identifiers.

1 19. ~~The method for specifying an electronic food menu~~
2 according to claim 1, said step of comparing said
3 plurality of food menu items with a plurality of
4 previously stored food preferences for a particular
5 customer, further comprising the step of:

6 accessing said previously stored food preferences
7 from a local data storage medium, wherein said previously
8 stored food preferences for a particular customer comprise
9 a plurality of food and health ratings.

1 20. ~~The method for specifying an electronic food menu~~
2 according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 transmitting said previously stored food preferences
5 for said particular customer to said data storage medium
6 for storage.

1 21. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 20, said step of transmitting said
3 previously stored food preferences further comprising the
4 step of:

5 determining electronic coupons to provide to a
6 particular customer from said previously stored food
7 preferences.

8 22. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
9 according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
10 steps of:

11 receiving an order from said particular customer for
12 food menu items from said selected food menu; and

13 transmitting said order to an order retrieval system.

14 23. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
15 according to claim 22, said method further comprising the
16 step of:

17 confirming electronic payment for said order.

1 24. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 22, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 adjusting a waiting period for said order in
5 accordance with a said food preferences for said
6 particular customer.

1 25. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 updating an electronic calendar with said food menu
5 items that are specified for a particular time period.

1 26. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said step of retrieving said
3 plurality of food menu items from said data storage medium
4 further comprises the step of:

5 retrieving electronic coupons for said plurality of
6 food menu items from said data storage medium.

1 27. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 26, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 filtering said electronic coupons that are displayed
5 to a particular customer according to said food
6 preferences for said particular customer.

1 28. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 26, said method further comprising the
3 step of:

4 updating an electronic calendar with said electronic
5 coupons that are specified for a particular time period.

1 29. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 1, said method further comprising the
3 steps of:

4 comparing said plurality of food menu items with a
5 plurality of previously stored food preferences for a
6 plurality of customers; and

7 selecting a food menu wherein said plurality of food
8 menu items that satisfy said previously stored food
9 preferences for said plurality of customers are
10 distinguished, such that an electronic food menu is
11 specified for said plurality of customers.

12 30. The method for specifying an electronic food menu
13 according to claim 29, said method further comprising the
14 step of:

15 retrieving electronic coupons that are specified for
16 said plurality of customers.

1 31. A system for specifying an electronic food menu, said
2 system comprising:

3 a data storage medium comprising a plurality of food
4 menu items;

5 a data processing system with access to said data
6 storage medium;

7 wherein said data processing system comprises:

8 a communications medium for retrieving said
9 plurality of food menu items from said data storage
10 medium;

11 means for comparing said plurality of food menu
12 items with a plurality of previously stored food
13 preferences for a particular customer;

14 means for selecting a food menu wherein said
15 plurality of food menu items that satisfy said
16 previously stored food preferences for said
17 particular customer are distinguished, such that an
18 electronic food menu is specified for a particular
19 customer.

1 32. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, said system further comprising:

3 a graphical display monitor for displaying said
4 selected food menu according to an output preference for
5 said particular customer, such that the graphical
6 representation of said food menu is provided to
7 accommodate a display preference of said particular
8 customer.

1 33. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 32, wherein said graphical display
3 monitor only displays said plurality of food menu items of
4 said selected food menu that are designated.

1 34. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 32, wherein said graphical display
3 monitor displays said selected food menu items in order
4 from designated food menu items to non-designated food
5 menu items.

1 35. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 32, wherein said graphical display
3 monitor displays said specified food menu such that said
4 plurality of food menu items that do not satisfy said
5 previously stored food preferences for said particular
6 customer are graphically distinguishable from said
7 plurality of food menu items that do satisfy said food
8 preferences for said particular customer.

1 36. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 32, wherein said graphical display
3 monitor displays a tactile-detectable graphical
4 representation of said selected food menu.

1 37. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 32, wherein said graphical display
3 monitor displays a graphical representation of said
4 selected food menu utilizing a particular font size.

1 38. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 32, wherein said graphical display
3 monitor displays a graphical representation of said
4 selected food menu utilizing a particular language.

1 39. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 32, wherein said graphical display
3 monitor displays a graphical representation of said
4 selected food menu wherein said prices are depicted
5 utilizing a particular currency

1 40. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, said system further comprising:

3 an audio element for transmitting auditory output of
4 said selected food menu for said particular customer.

1 41. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, said system further comprising:

3 a printing element for graphically printing said
4 selected food menu for said particular customer.

1 42. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 21, said system further comprising:

3 a graphical display monitor for displaying a
4 graphical representation of said selected food menu
according to a generic style sheet.

1 43. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 21, wherein said means for retrieving a
3 plurality of food menu items from said data storage
4 medium, further comprises:

5 a wireless communication element for receiving said
6 plurality of food menu items via a wireless transmission
7 medium.

1 44. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 43, wherein said wireless communication
3 element supports communication via a radio frequency
4 transmission.

1 45. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 43, wherein said wireless communication
3 element supports communication via an infrared
4 transmission.

1 46. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, wherein said means for retrieving a
3 plurality of food menu items from said data storage
4 medium, further comprises:

5 a network element for receiving said plurality of
6 food menu items via a network connection.

1 47. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, wherein said means for retrieving a
3 plurality of food menu items from said data storage
4 medium, further comprises:

5 a socket interface for receiving said plurality of
6 food menu items via a wired connection.

1 48. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, wherein said means for retrieving a
3 plurality of food menu items from said data storage
4 medium, further comprises:

5 a data transmission protocol for specifying data
6 transmissions across said communications medium.

1 49. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, wherein said data transmission
3 protocol is an extensible mark-up language protocol.

1 50. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, wherein said data storage medium
3 further comprises:

4 a plurality of food menu items accessible from a
5 database, wherein each of said plurality of food and
6 health identifiers.

1 51. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, said system further comprising:

3 a local data storage medium comprising said
4 previously stored food preferences for said particular
5 customer, wherein said previously stored food preferences
6 for a particular customer comprise a plurality of food and
7 health ratings.

1 52. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, said system further comprising:

3 means for transmitting said previously stored food
4 preferences for said particular customer to said data
5 storage medium.

1 53. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, said data processing system further
3 comprising:

4 a local data storage medium for storing said selected
5 food menu, such that said selected food menu is recallable
6 from said local data storage medium.

1 54. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, wherein said data processing system
3 comprises a pervasive data processing system.

1 55. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 31, wherein said data processing system
3 transmits an order to an order queue of food menu items
4 from said selected menu that are selected by said
5 particular customer.

1 56. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
2 according to claim 55, wherein said data processing system
3 requests confirmation of an electronic payment for said
order.

57. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
according to claim 31, wherein said data processing system
further comprises an electronic calendar that is updated
with food menu items that are designated for a particular
time period.

58. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
according to claim 31, wherein said data storage medium
further comprises a plurality of electronic coupons for
said plurality of food menu items.

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59. The system for specifying an electronic food menu
according to claim 31, wherein said data processing system
further comprises:

4 means for comparing said plurality of food menu items
5 with a plurality of previously stored food preferences for
6 a plurality of customers; and

7 means for selecting a food menu wherein said
8 plurality of food menu items that satisfy said previously
9 stored food preferences for said plurality of customers
10 are distinguished, such that an electronic food menu is
11 specified for said plurality of customers.

1 60. A program, residing on a computer usable medium
2 having computer readable program code means, said program
3 comprising:

4 means for retrieving a plurality of food menu items
5 from a data storage medium;

6 means for comparing said plurality of food menu items
7 with previously stored food preferences for a particular
8 customer; and

9 means for generating a food menu designating a
10 selection of said plurality of food menu items that
11 satisfy said previously stored food preferences for said
12 particular customer.

1 61. The program according to claim 60, said program
2 further comprising:

3 means for enabling a graphical display of said
4 plurality of food menu items, wherein said plurality of
5 food menu items that do not satisfy said previously stored
6 preferences are graphically designated.

1 62. The program according to claim 60, said program
2 further comprising:

3 means for enabling said graphical display of said
4 generated food menu according to an output preference for
5 said particular customer.

1 63. The program according to claim 60, said program
2 further comprising:

3 means for enabling auditory output of said generated
4 food menu for said particular customer.

1 64. The program according to claim 60, said program
2 further comprising:

3 means for enabling tactile-detectable output of said
4 generated food menu for said particular customer.

1 65. The program according to claim 60, said program
2 further comprising:

3 means for transmitting said previously stored food
4 preferences for said particular customer to said data
5 storage medium.

6 66. The program according to claim 60, said program
7 further comprising:

8 means for receiving an order from said particular
9 customer of selected food menu items from among said
10 selected food menu; and

11 means for transmitting said order to an order
12 retrieval system.

1 67. ~~A system for displaying an electronic food menu, said~~
2 system comprising:

3 a data storage medium comprising a plurality of food
4 menu items;

5 a data processing system with access to said data
6 storage medium,

7 wherein said data processing system comprises:

8 a communications medium for retrieving said
9 plurality of food menu items from said data storage
10 medium;

11 a graphical display that displays said plurality
12 of food menu items according to a display style.

13 68. The system for displaying an electronic food menu
14 according to claim 67, wherein said communications medium
15 comprises a wireless data transmissions.

16 69. The system for displaying an electronic food menu
17 according to claim 68, wherein ~~said wireless data~~
18 transmissions comprise radio frequency data transmissions.

19 70.. The system for displaying an electronic food menu
20 according to claim 69, wherein ~~said wireless data~~
21 transmissions comprise ~~infrared data transmissions~~

